

Legal Notice  
Notification of Open House for the  
Mt. Taylor Ranger District Zuni Mountain Trail Project

The Mt. Taylor Ranger District, Cibola National Forest is hosting two Open Houses to address non-motorized trail development and implementing site specific best management practices on undesignated roads on the Mt. Taylor Ranger District. The Open Houses are scheduled for Monday, October 29, 4-8 p.m. at the Northwest New Mexico Visitor Center, 1900 Santa Fe Ave, in Grants, NM, and then Monday, November 5, 5:30-8:30 p.m. at the Gallup Community Service Center, 410 Bataan Veterans Street (Miyamura overpass and Montoya Blvd), in Gallup, NM. Interested members of the public are invited to attend one or both of the meetings to learn about the project and to make comments. These Open Houses are the start of the National Environmental Policy Act process.

In order to meet the needs of both the Zuni Mountain Trail Partnership and the Mt. Taylor Ranger District, this project would combine development of a trail system for non-motorized activities (bicycling and hiking) with watershed protection/enhancement, the application of Best Management Practices to decommissioned roads/trails. The proposed project activities are located in the Zuni Mountains portion of the Mt. Taylor Ranger District located to the south and east of Gallup, NM.

There is an increasing public demand for a high quality, challenging network of mountain bike and hiking trails in the Zuni Mountains. There are also unauthorized trails in sensitive or impaired areas that are impacting watershed resources such as water quality, soil condition, and wildlife habitats, including critical habitat. These and other unauthorized trails and roads that are currently not designated for public use are impacting forest and watershed resources, and are proposed for decommissioning.

As required by the National Forest Management Act the proposed action will be evaluated for its consistency with Forest-wide goals and objectives expressed in the Cibola National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP, as amended) and specific standards and guidelines for the various Management Areas.

Written comments may be submitted at the Open Houses or may be mailed to Melani Oakley-Spangler, NEPA Specialist, SWCA, 5647 Jefferson St NE, Albuquerque NM 87109. Comments may also be e-mailed to: [mspangler@swca.com](mailto:mspangler@swca.com).

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